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Commission on Population and Development
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda[1]

General Debate 3 (a): Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels

3 (b): Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration

Statement submitted by Imam Ali's Popular Students Relief Society, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council[2]

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Statement

There are different types of migration, such as migration from villages to cities and major urban agglomerations and migration from one country to another. From another perspective, migration can be forced or voluntary.

In this statement, the focus is placed on forced migration, its roots and consequences.

Migration from villages to small cities and large urban agglomerations takes place for different reasons, such as change in the ecosystem, climate change, poverty, lack of jobs, and lack of welfare infrastructures. One of the consequences of such migration can be increased marginalization of the population in urban areas which can lead, in turn, to complex problems such as addiction, child labour, informal economy, crime and insecurity.

Macro-economic, political and social policies that focus on rural development and the development of disadvantaged areas, can reduce migration from such areas. Developing civil and socially-oriented activities in areas considered as the sources of migration can also reduce migration.

As a civil society, Imam Ali's Society has been active both in areas at the outskirts of cities and in border towns and villages (in provinces such as Sistan Baluchestan, Kurdestan, Khouzestan, Ilam, Hormozgan and Kermanshah) for more than two decades.

Another form of forced migration is relocation from one country to another due to war and internal conflicts. Forced migrants are often threatened by drowning, abduction, sexual abuse, and organ-smuggling gangs.

Imam Ali's Popular Student Relief Society works with people from Afghanistan who emigrated to Iran due to instability and unsafe living conditions in Afghanistan, with Syrian refugees living in camps in Iraq, and with immigrants of Myanmar's Rohingya who have escaped political turmoil in Myanmar. Many of these migrants and refugees suffered from deprivation, and they did not have any resources and were at risk to suffer also in the countries of destination.

During the recent political crisis in Myanmar, about one million Rohingya were forced to migrate to Bangladesh. Some statistical sources indicate that almost 60 per cent of these refugees are children who are deprived of appropriate nutrition, education, hygiene, and many other services. They have suffered psychologically, due to the experiences suffered when fleeing persecution. Children suffer abuse in many ways.

In our point of view, development as a general concept is not uniformly achieved within a region. Levels of development often differ from one region to another leading to migration from the less to more developed regions which can negatively impact conditions in both origin and destination countries.

Imam Ali's Society is seeking development and peace for all regardless of borders. This civil society organization provides opportunities for those living along the borders of Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan. The organization is assisting refugees to improve their living conditions.

Imam Ali's Society has also engaged in some activities in Iraq and Syria for support in refugee camps and plans to assist Rohingya who are homeless. The organization hopes that by expanding these humanitarian activities, forced migration in these areas will decrease in the future.

Statement

Building the capacity to care

Preparing the next generation of healthcare providers in the international arena, deepening their knowledge and improving the skill set for a career in global health and global governance is urgently needed. Programmes are needed for healthcare providers to provide them with academic training and practical knowledge to assist them in providing national and international healthcare.

The Women's Health and Education Center (WHEC), through its e-Health initiative in Women's Health and Development, is serving in 227 countries with an average of 13 to 14 million subscribers every year, and it is available in the six official languages of the United Nations. e-Health can result in economic benefits and improve health outcomes.

Established in 2001, WHEC was granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, in 2008. WHEC has been actively working to advance the causes of peace, health and development with the United Nations since its inception. It has a vision to build infrastructure in developing countries and to create meaningful opportunities for girls and women to participate in global philanthropy.

The organization embraces the tremendous diversity of people, religions, and cultures around the world. In support of this belief, the organization has established an academic and cultural focus at important institutions around the globe, to nurture common interests and potential. By supporting reproductive health and research, open dialogue and objective analysis, WHEC has laid the ground work for mutual understanding among countries.

e-Health was launched in cooperation with the United Nations in 2002. The initiative provides information on everyday issues associated with women's health. e-Health development is holistic, evidence-based and people-centered; it takes into account how people live within their own environments and responds to stakeholders' needs.

There are three leading purposes of the health-related uses of information and communication technologies (ICT) in low and middle-income countries: to extend geographic access to health care; to improve data management; and to facilitate communication between patients and physicians outside the physician's office. Experience has shown that data have strengthened the health management information systems by improving the quality of public health data and the evidence of improved disease surveillance capacity despite resource constraints owing to an innovative sentinel system based on a short message service. The factors promoting or inhibiting the implementation of e-Health systems show a growing research emphasis on "workability", or the work that health professionals must undertake to make e-Health systems function well in practice.

It is important to join forces for global health.

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3 (b): Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration

Statement submitted by International Federation for Family Development, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council[2]

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

The role of families in the new urban agenda

According to the World Bank, today's urban population of about 3.5 billion people is projected to reach 5 billion by 2030, with two-thirds of the global population living in cities. City leaders must move quickly to plan for growth. The speed and scale of urbanization brings challenges for all family members such as children, parents, youth, persons with disabilities and older persons. The capacity to tackle challenges is essential to assure a safe growth of all family members that live in the city. Some suggested relevant areas for it should promote affordable housing; well-connected transport systems; meeting accelerated demand for infrastructure and built environment; ratio of the available land, urban development focused in nucleus family needs, urban growth designed for persons with disabilities, respect and social inclusion; access to community support and health services; communication and information; as well as civil participation; jobs and opportunities, particularly for the nearly 1 billion urban poor who live in informal settlements.

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, more than 150 world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. The entire United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme will support governments around the world in tackling the new agenda and taking it forward over the next 15 years. Furthermore, the Sustainable Development Goals include a dedicated goal for urban development, SDG11, which calls to "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".

A year later, at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development — Habitat III, member states signed the New Urban Agenda. This is an action-oriented document which sets global standards of achieving SDG11, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities. It acknowledges that while most of the global population and capital goods are concentrated in cities, urban areas remain crucial to social development, economic prosperity and poverty eradication. They drive most of the economic growth and are a source of innovation, facing sanitation and security challenges while acting as cultural centres. Achievements in eradicating poverty among developing countries are partly recognized to be related to the considerable progress in economic growth performance in the past two decades as well as gains in education and health, and the provision of social protection.

UN-Habitat is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.

In October 2016, at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development — Habitat III, member states signed the New Urban Agenda. This is an action-oriented document which sets global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities. Through drawing together cooperation with committed partners, relevant stakeholders, and urban actors, including at all levels of government as well as the private sector, UN-Habitat is applying its technical expertise, normative work and capacity development to implement the New Urban Agenda and SDG11.

To ensure that no one is left behind in the New Urban Agenda, strategies that have proven to be effective and measurable need to be taken. Modern cities need to be resilient and their "urban strength" be evaluated. Only a holistic approach to evaluate the progress of cities can provide a complete picture of the city's vigour. A dialogue among stakeholders is equally important; any effort aimed at facilitating it

among government, civil society, residents, and the private sector about risks and the performance of urban systems is a worthwhile cause. With an accurate assessment, priority actions and investments can be identified, as well as strengthening resilience for planned or aspirational projects.

Some other goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development focus on topics that are directly related to families — ending poverty, promoting shared economic prosperity, social development and people's well-being — while protecting the environment. In all of them, families remain at the centre of social life ensuring the well-being of their members, educating and socializing children and youth and caring for young and old people. In particular, family-oriented policies can contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1 to 5 related to ending poverty and hunger; ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all ages; ensuring educational opportunities throughout the lifespan and achieving gender equality.

In other words, there is no better holistic approach than a family perspective. The family unit has proven to be the main agent for development within societies and thus the cornerstone for sustainable cities. If families are these crucial development agents, an adequate environment is needed to facilitate their role. An adequate integrated approach that encourages cross-sectorial collaboration is more efficient when tackling existing issues and unlocking opportunities within the city.

A holistic approach to the family will contribute to three distinct aspects of sustainable development, and will make possible an accurate assessment of the needs for inclusive cities, especially in terms of investment in infrastructure. In order to achieve this objective, families may need to be provided with adequate tools for strengthening their ability to reach their potential as productive, engaged, and capable agents of sustainable development, contributing fully to their members and communities. Sustainable cities start and end with cohesive and inclusive families. Building cities that "work" — inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable — requires intensive policy coordination and investment choices. National and local governments have a key role to play to take action now, to shape the future of their development and to create opportunities for all, so that no one will be left behind.

The global project on Inclusive Cities and Sustainable Families that the International Federation for Family Development has promoted, represents a global alliance of cities, that aims to be inclusive of sustainable families by being responsive to their needs, according to goals 1 to 5 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The global alliance will present reviews on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals once a year, according to the agreed metrics in regional expert groups meetings and in the conference organized annually to share good practices. The International Federation for Family Development will also be committed to suggest that new cities be part of the Alliance; to co-ordinate the organization of the annual conference; to guarantee the co-ordination with UN departments and agencies, as well as the yearly presentation of the results during a side-event in the margins of the Commission on Population and Development at UN-Headquarters; to disseminate the key findings and policy recommendations worldwide.

In February 2017, during the 55th session of the Commission for Social Development, the Federation and the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, organized a high-level side-event in the form of a panel discussion with national, regional and local authorities to discuss the main objectives of the project. The side-event's interventions focused on strategies to eradicate poverty through a family perspective while following-up the New Urban Agenda.

On 31 October 2017, during the World Cities Day, the Regional Council of Veneto, working together with the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Federation, officially presented the Inclusive Cities and Sustainable Families project. The discussion focused on urban centres that will face key challenges in ensuring that the needs of people living in hardship are met. As cities become "smart", they must also provide equal access to the benefits of technological progress for vulnerable social groups and leave no one behind. Innovation can be a catalyst for change and ensure that cities and families are resilient. As part of the expert discussion series, the event served as a platform for experts to share their knowledge and identify solutions to the challenges "smart" cities will face in offering accessible infrastructure, services and information.

It is important to acknowledge the contributions of national governments, as well as the contributions of sub-national and local governments, in the definition of the New Urban Agenda. The New Urban Agenda reaffirms the Federation's global commitment to sustainable urban development as a critical step for realizing sustainable development in an integrated and coordinated manner at global, regional, national, sub-national, and local levels, with the participation of all relevant actors. On 21 November 2017, the first sub-national expert group meeting took place in Venice, Italy under the auspices of the President of the Regional Council of Veneto. The meeting aimed to set the evaluating items, define its content, and design evaluation process.

By being involved in all of these activities, the International Federation for Family Development is following-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and its contribution to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, including SDG11, making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, sustainable and with a family perspective.

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3 (b): Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration

Statement submitted by Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council[2]

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Statement

Fifty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD)

The Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights, representing more than a thousand organizations and individuals worldwide working to realize the full sexual and reproductive health and rights of all people, welcomes the fifty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development, focusing on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration. The Women's Global Network would like to draw the Commission's attention to the issue of limited access to sexual and reproductive health and rights experienced by migrant women worldwide, impacting their personal freedom, mobility, and bodily autonomy. Women in all their diversities — no matter their nationality or citizenship status — must be able to fully enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights, as part of realizing their human rights and wellbeing, and as essential to the contribution to the sustainability of cities across the globe.

According to population projections, the number of people living in cities will nearly double between now and 2050, reaching 6.4 billion people. In the world's rapidly growing urban spaces, international migrants represent a critical mass ranging anywhere from one-third to one-half in global cities such Dubai, London and New York. As women take more active roles in the global paid workforce, the concept of the "feminization of migration" has become increasingly more common. However, women in all their diversities, have always been present in migratory flows, often accompanying male migrants and working informally and often more vulnerable to economic, physical and sexual abuse by employers, spouses, and government officials, among others.

As economic trends continue to push viable work opportunities to cities, women continue to migrate across international borders. Today, women represent 48 per cent of the 244 million migrants worldwide. Pervasive gender inequality in the labour market limits many migrant women to work in low-paying jobs with little upward mobility in labour-intensive sectors, such as domestic work, child care, cooking, garment factories, piece work — where they work long hours for low pay and are subject to exploitation. Domestic work presents women with distinct challenges when they are often isolated and sometimes abused, with no benefits or recourse. The many risks migrant women take in seeking and engaging in work are often accompanied by little to no additional benefits and a lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services. Workplace benefits such as flexible hours, family or maternity leave and access to healthcare coverage are rarely encountered by migrant women.

Migrant women engaging in sex work experience constant challenges and violations in relation to their human rights, including little to no access to public services, high instances of sexual assault and threats to their personal safety, and are frequently persecuted within their communities and by law enforcement. These challenges coupled with women's unrealized autonomy over their sexual and reproductive health and rights can perpetuate difficult circumstances and cycles of poverty, while violating women's human rights.

For many migrant women, the fundamental right to access public health services such as sexual and reproductive health information and services is often limited or withheld completely. Although sexual and reproductive health services are more accessible in cities than in rural areas throughout the world, inequality contributes to limited access to contraception and safe and legal abortion, particularly for migrant women. The likelihood of a migrant woman successfully navigating a foreign

healthcare system to fully realize her sexual health and rights is low. This is due to barriers including fear of disclosing immigration status, language barriers, high healthcare costs, women's restricted mobility and the criminalization of abortion services in many countries. Globally, the unmet need for contraception and access to safe and legal abortion severely limits and violates migrant women's human rights, specifically their sexual and reproductive health and rights. This issue impedes the global realization of gender equality and is detrimental to migrant women's human rights to health, bodily autonomy and integrity, hindering their ability to exercise meaningful decision-making power in defining their own lives.

When women and girls are able to fully enjoy their sexual and reproductive health and rights, it contributes to the fulfilment of their rights to health, privacy, and information and also positively impacts their families and communities. It is thus imperative to respect, protect, and fulfil the sexual and reproductive rights of women in all their diversities, including immigrant and migrant women, sex workers, victims of sexual assault and human trafficking, women identifying as LGBT, indigenous women, young women and girls, among others.

Therefore, the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights recommends the inclusion of the following in the conclusions of the fifty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development:

- Uphold and accelerate the implementation of all sexual and reproductive health and rights-related commitments under the 2030 Agenda. Expand the provision of all forms of contraception, safe and legal abortion and post abortion care within cities across the globe. Ensure these services are accessible, affordable, confidential, and high-quality for all women regardless of immigration status, nationality, ethnicity, age, religion or economic status, among other identity markers. Take into account the different realities and barriers migrant and immigrant women face in accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights in urban settings.

- Ensure the provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health information and services at all phases of the migration cycle and facilitate the establishment of linkages and referral networks with migrant-friendly healthcare providers. Governments from origin and destination countries must work together with civil society and other stakeholders in creating an enabling environment for migrant workers to make meaningful choices regarding their body and sexuality, and to fully exercise their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- Recognize migrant women as active agents in the development of sustainable cities, entitled to their full human rights, including access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Put an end to the criminalization of migrants and migration enforcement schemes that deny due process and basic human rights. Enforce policies at the national level that enable migrant women to access public services, join unions, and seek legal recourse. Expand investments in women and girl's empowerment and their education, including their comprehensive sexuality education. Accelerate the development of safe workplace policies especially within industrial sectors with large concentrations of poor, migrant female workers. Address existing gender inequalities in the workplace, allowing for more women to enter formal channels of work.

- Prioritize and enact comprehensive and fair immigration policies with special consideration for developing inclusive public health systems, including full access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for immigrant and migrant women. Above all, prioritize women's universal human rights especially their sexual and reproductive health and rights, in order to strengthen the

sustainability of global cities and contribute to the wellbeing of migrant women worldwide. Ultimately, migration issues must be structurally addressed through just global socioeconomic policies that enhance sustainable development, and make migration a choice rather than a necessity.

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Statement submitted by Statement Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW), Humanist Institute for Co-operation with Developing Countries, International Planned Parenthood Federation (Africa Region), Stichting dance4life, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council[2]

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Statement

The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Humanist Institute for Cooperation with Developing Countries, International Planned Parenthood Federation (Africa region), Stichting dance4life, Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (LACWHN), and Stichting Rutgers — all organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council — as well as CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, welcome the theme of the fifty-first session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development (CPD) on "Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration". In light of this year's CPD theme, the organization would like to draw particular attention to the impact that urbanization, urban poverty and international migration has on the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights of adolescents and youth.

Adolescents and youth in sustainable cities

Across the world, the population and particularly adolescents and youth become increasingly urbanized. Youth under 18 years old are projected to make up to 60 per cent of urban population by 2030, especially in low-income countries. They are overrepresented in the urban poverty rates, and are exposed to vulnerabilities such as living in informal settlements (slums), working in informal, unregulated and unsafe conditions, or being unemployed, being exposed to poor quality and overcrowded housing, risk of forceful eviction, lack of safe, reliable water supplies, poor provision of sanitation, drainage, sewage and solid waste collection, pollution, lack of access to health services and education, high rates of crime and violence, and high risk of natural disasters such as floods and landslides.

Health indicators, including on sexual and reproductive health, reflect young people's vulnerabilities, with stark inequalities between those living in more affluent urban areas and those living in informal settlements and impoverished conditions. The number of adolescent pregnancies and unsafe abortions, and STI/HIV infection rates are high among the young urban poor, as these youth lack access to comprehensive sexuality education, modern contraceptives and affordable, quality and confidential youth-friendly health services. Although service delivery should be relatively easier in an urban setting, in practice we see that the urban poor face significant social, cultural, economic and legal barriers in access. In addition, as informal urban settlements are often characterized by high crime rates, particularly adolescent girls are exposed to high risks of sexual and gender-based violence which generally remain unpunished.

Urban youth in Nairobi, Kenya

The above-described challenges are very real for instance for urban youth in Nairobi's slums. Civil society organizations have come up with creative solutions to reach young people with information and services, to overcome some of the barriers. For instance, radio stations which are accessible and affordable to young people either through mobile phones or portable radios, are used to share critical information on sexual and reproductive health and rights issues. Trained champions and youth advocates host talk shows in "Sheng", Nairobi urban youth language, where adolescents and youth discuss their experiences in seeking services and information, and can dial in to ask questions about the challenges they face. The radio talk shows are followed up with community forums in social halls in urban slums.

In addition, young people could receive answers to their questions about their sexual and reproductive health through a free short message service (sms), and social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

Recommendations:

1. Invest in social and economic empowerment and development programmes in slum areas, targeting young people and adolescents to improve their access to quality housing, health services, education and decent work.

2. Invest in overcoming the social, cultural, economic and legal barriers for urban youth to access:

a. Information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including comprehensive sexuality education, both in and out of school settings;

b. Youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services, including a full range of modern contraceptives, emergency contraceptives, safe abortion services and post-abortion care, and maternal health services.

3. Invest in the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in urban settings, as well as the improved access to justice, and legal and social counselling.

4. Ensure the full involvement and meaningful participation of diverse groups of youth in urban development programs and policies, as well as education and service delivery.

Adolescent and youth international migration

A large share of the world's international migrants are constituted by adolescents and youth, with a particular peak among youth in their twenties. Youth migrate for a variety of reasons: from looking for better education prospects and income generating opportunities, to family reunification, as well as to escape the effects of violence, war and conflict. Youth forced migration and displacement, be it within a country or across borders, is driven by various interacting reasons. Climate change is a threat multiplier: contributing to economic and political instability, propelling sudden-onset disasters like floods and storms but also slow-onset disasters like drought and desertification contributing to crop failure and famines. Those crises inflame political unrest and worsen the impacts of war, leading to even more displacement.

Although the opportunities for youth and the country of their destination can be significant, it is important to also recognize the challenges, vulnerabilities and human rights' violations that young international migrants experience. These positive and negative effects are gendered — whereby migration can contribute to women's and girls' emancipation, for instance, when adolescent girls migrate to escape pressure to marry or to pursue a level of economic independence, but also aggravate the risks, vulnerabilities and rights abuses faced by young women such as exposure to sexual violence.

Evidence shows that the majority of victims of trafficking are young women between 14 and 17 years of age. They are overrepresented in the least regulated and most unsafe segments of the labour market, as they migrate as agricultural workers, domestic workers, sex workers, "entertainers" or other occupations with poor working conditions; low remuneration, long working hours and few legal protections. Hence, the general protections that are there often fail to reach young migrant women, and tailored efforts are needed to protect them from human rights violations.

In addition, young international migrants often face restrictions in their access to the job market, education and health services, including sexual and reproductive health rights, as a result of laws, policies and practices such as discrimination and xenophobia in the countries of transit and destination. Undocumented adolescent and young migrants face such restrictions and more as they may be put in detention from

the age of 18 when legally they are considered adults and lose the protections that being a child entail. As migrants often fall outside the general education and health structures in the country of transit and destination, they fail to get the sexual and reproductive health information they need to make informed choices. They also lack access to contraceptives, safe abortion services and post abortion care, and maternal health services.

Recommendations:

1. Invest in the consistent collection, analysis and use of data on human mobility including migration, disaggregated by age and sex, among other factors. Such data is key to understand the mobility and migration phenomena and what kind of characteristics these young people have. These insights of the data analytics help governments as well as civil society to improve policies and programmes that are in line with the needs of young people and ensure their human rights are being respected, protected and fulfilled throughout their journey.

2. Review, adopt and implement rights-based, age and gender-responsive migration regulations, policies and programs, including to ensure young migrants' access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services. These policies must comprehensively address conditions, risks and vulnerabilities of young migrants, taking into account their resilience and adaptability.

3. Ensure the meaningful participation of young migrants in their transit and destination communities, and in the formulation, review and implementation of policies and programs that aim to protect their rights and stimulate their integration.

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Statement

The Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD) has been contributing to solve issues of housing deprivation and human mobility within the private sector including global corporations for achieving the Goal 11, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".

Large scale of human mobility such as migrations within and between countries has been recently taking place due to urbanization and other external reasons. There are three common causes for human mobility; economic hardship, social and political change, and demographic change. People face great difficulties and challenges when they move. People cannot easily integrate, adapt into new and different societies and are often hampered by a variety of restrictions in their activities.

The greatest hardship is the lack of sustainable residential space to settle down. These people often cannot get decent quality of residential space and are likely to become homeless or poor residential dwellers. Furthermore, they can be a main contributor to the increment in urban population and to hinder and hamper urban economic growth and activity at the same time. Mega cities in Europe and Southeast Asia have limited financial resources to accommodate the population living in cities. Therefore, economic growth and economic activities can decrease and come to an end in these cities, which can represent a serious threat to international society in the future.

The number of people suffering from housing deprivation has increased significantly in recent years. Housing deprivation is one of the biggest risks faced by developing and less developed countries. UN-Habitat considers housing and slum upgrading as a critical issue among 16 urban themes. Housing deprivation in the developing countries and less developed countries can trigger bigger threats such as terror and slum-building. Also, in the developed countries, housing deprivation can create large-scale unemployment, economic crisis, and eventually a threat of international-level.

To combat this issue, the Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD) has supported significant projects. Our partners are mainly global corporations from the Republic of Korea. Global Steel Maker POSCO, for example, has been working on a project called "POSCO Steel Village". POSCO finds poor residential areas, and works to improve the environment and the living conditions of the residents in the cities where POSCO works. POSCO Steel Village is a project to build high-quality houses using POSCO's own steel-house method and to provide sustainable life for residents. Starting in 2014, POSCO has built a total of 104 houses in Vietnam, and is planning to expand its project into various regions and countries. POSCO began a global initiative (#SDGAction23282), Partnership for SDGs Platform, to improve poor living conditions of residents and contribute to accomplish Goal 11.

Designed by the POSCO family company POSCO A&C, POSCO Steel Village uses POSCO steel materials and strengthens durability and life of buildings. This project promotes proper residential environment through arrangements with local government and citizens and provides necessary conditions to achieve sustainable life for residents. The project has constructed buildings, houses, schools, and bridges. It has also established a social enterprise that helps local communities to be financially independent. POSCO and local communities are trying to solve issues such as lack of jobs. Sustainable cities should not only mean decent quality of housing, but also sustainable infrastructure, environment, and economy.

Through the POSCO Steel Village Project, the organization is attempting to make efforts to attain Goal 11. Starting with the POSCO Steel Village Project, and helping on issues about poor human settlements, the organization can take a step forward to achieve one SDG target of the UN 2030 Agenda, especially target 11.7, "by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe housing and basic services and upgrade slums". Furthermore, POSCO and the Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs are committed to support financial and technical assistance in building sustainable and resilient buildings, and to work on the Sendai Framework 2015–2030 for disaster risk reduction.

As a critical issue of the international society, population growth in developing countries and less developed countries requires attention and work from all. Appropriate and continued efforts such as building suitable infrastructure and creating jobs, are necessary for economic growth in these areas. To provide a sustainable city for people, sustainable residential places should not be missed. Practical efforts such as the ones conducted by POSCO Steel Village, in partnership with activities of the Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD), are essential for achieving the goals.

The Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD), hopes to be a crucial model to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by promoting and supporting influential private projects such as POSCO Steel Village along the United Nations and international society. Global corporations such as POSCO can be practical partners to make considerable progress on the implementation and spreading of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) all over the world.

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General Debate 3 (a): Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels

3 (b): Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration

Statement submitted by Diplomatic Council e.V., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council[2]

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[1] E/CN.9/2018/1.
[2] The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Please recycle

Statement

A sustainable city is built on a smart city — Public private partnerships represent the best sustainable city solutions

For the first time in the history of mankind, 2008 marked the year when more people lived in urban areas than in rural areas. According to estimates, over 60 per cent of the world population will be living in cities in 2030 rising to 66 per cent in 2050. This concentration of people is expected to occur in Africa, Asia and Latin America, however, the strongest growth is predicted in the poorer countries. Future scenarios suggest that the growth in the urban areas in the first three decades of the 21st century will exceed the cumulative urban expansion in the history of mankind.

At present, already 70 per cent of the world's energy consumption takes place in metropolitan areas although these only make up 5 per cent of the planet's landmasses. This development in turn triggers growing urban demand for water, land, construction material, food products combined with the need for pollution reduction measures and waste management. The municipalities are under constant pressure to deliver better service, enhance efficiency, reduce expenses, raise effectiveness and productivity as well as to counteract congestions and environmental pollution. Meeting these challenges require a concept for a sustainable city, which is closely linked with a concept of a smart city.

No sustainability without technology

A smart and sustainable city is innovative and takes advantage of information and telecommunication technologies to improve the quality of life, the efficiency of the municipal undertakings and services. Also, competition needs to be increased to meet the requirements of current and future generations regarding economic and social issues and environmental impacts. Consequently, the terms sustainable cities and smart cities do not only describe a technological vision but rather represent a municipal multi stakeholder concept that needs to be tackled by leveraging synergies between politics, society, economy and technology. As a result, local politics will become more challenging than ever before. If more than half of the world population will reside in cities, local politics will be the decisive factor in creating smart and sustainable cities and enhancing the quality of life for most people.

Smart and sustainable cities depend on smart and intelligent infrastructure considering regions, premises, mobility, energy, water, supplies, disposal, healthcare and digital infrastructure. This concept assumes five interlocking digital levels: a broadly distributed net of sensors, a connectivity for collecting data, a data analysis with prediction functionality, an automation level as well as a city network that links all physical and digital infrastructure. A successful implementation would require a fail-safe broadband net, an efficient ecosystem for the "internet of things" and the real-time analysis of the data collected according to Big Data.

Integrating Infrastructures

Today, a city already consists of different vertical infrastructures which, have worked disconnected until now more or less. The challenge of a sustainable city lies in connecting these separate systems to one complete system. A key element of a sustainable city is to link all systems and merge functional units (co-locations).

Building a digital ecosystem based on municipal data thus would be the first step towards the creation of a smart and sustainable city. Such a digital ecosystem opens the opportunity for the public and private sector to collaborate in accordance

with specific rules to streamline the various services and provide them to the population.

The aim should be to develop public-private financing models (public-private partnerships) using units of accounts and data access hence offering an economic basis and perspective for a sustainable city.

The implementation and operation of sustainable cities will only succeed if local politics clearly point out the attractive business models to the business sector encouraging commitment for the urban future concepts. In this process, the large-scale collection and evaluation of big data will surely play a key role for the success. Incidentally, the detailed data analysis is of highest interest, to both, the private and public sector serving as a basis for monetisation: municipal tax and levy models which take on "intelligent" management functions will become the regular case in the future thanks to big data analysis.

The simplest model — persons driving to the centre of the city during rush hours must pay an extra fee — can be complemented in several ways by granular versions. Ultimately, all tax models can be applied to protect the environment and operate a sustainable city.

The implementation of a sustainable city requires a well-thought-out combination of top-down and button-up approach. Especially for emergency cases, it is imperative to control the connected municipal infrastructure top-down. At the same time, it is important to integrate initiatives from the population and the local economy in a transparent and sustainable way into the overall concept.

Public Private Partnerships

Sustainable cities can only be built and developed with the joint support of public-private partnerships, which are key to satisfy the enormous demand for infrastructure worldwide. The demand is coming from numerous sectors including transport, telecommunications, energy and water as well as education and healthcare — all of them of utmost importance for a sustainable city.

Whereas the demand for infrastructure has massively grown worldwide, the supply has slowed down due to numerous factors, such as high public debt and the lack of knowledge leading to a global infrastructure investment gap of around one trillion US dollars annually until 2030. Yet, not only the financing difficulties impede this progress, the contracting authorities are increasingly lacking know-how and expertise. According to UNESCO estimates there is a shortage of 2.5 million technicians in sub-Saharan Africa while at the same time the number of students in the field of engineering has decreased significantly in formerly leading industrial countries.

For several reasons, there is a significant infrastructural backlog demand that cannot be closed and which hinders the advancement of urban areas causing far-reaching consequences for the local population affecting global understanding and peace.

These challenges cannot be addressed without involving and integrating the private sector. In this context, a public-private partnership represents a potential and proven model to reconcile the backlog demand in the infrastructure industry, particularly in respect to urbanization focusing on national priorities, resources and capacities. It is equally important to use the know-how of the private sector for public purposes, gain funding for public tasks and create a win-win situation for all involved.

In a public-private partnership, the public and private clients agree on the partial or full performance of a previously public task stipulating objectives, scope, quality, duration, prices and risk-sharing for the duration of the contract for the lifecycle of

the investment or service. Payment is made depending on the level and quality of the performance of the individual contractual components.

The public client defines the project aims while the private partner assumes accountability for the fulfilment thereof. In a public-private partnership the public sector, however, retains ownership over the infrastructure as opposed to privatization.

A successful public-private partnership offers the public client a clear improvement of services, sustainable efficiency enhancements, a mobilization and involvement of private capital. Public-private partnerships are not the solution to all problems and challenges, yet they represent a good and feasible way to build sustainable municipal infrastructure for implementing a smart and sustainable city.

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Statement submitted by SOS Éducation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council[2]

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Please recycle

Statement

Population is at the center of development, in developed and developing countries. In some less developed countries, population growth remains high.

Until recently, wars, epidemics, famine, and natural disasters, have reduced the population in some parts of the world. The situation is different today. With the establishment of the United Nations, peace talks to resolve conflicts, human rights bodies, technological and scientific developments, especially in medicine and computer science, population has grown again in the second half of the twenty-first century. While population is increasing in developing countries due to the reduction of mortality rates and a high birth rate, developed countries are experiencing a reduction in population.

We must recognize the universality of the development problem and its significance, especially for the developing countries. Population appears at the core of development in the following areas:

- Demographic (city-countryside relationship, migration flows, etc.)
- Environmental (water, forest, climate, soil, etc.)
- Economic (implementation of development models in agriculture and industry, etc.)
- Political (participation of the population in the main orientations of each government, etc.).

Developing countries often share a similar history, a similar socio-cultural context, the variety of their natural wealth, the gradual transformation of the economy from rural or industrial development, and their own development style. These factors change constantly due to the significant transformations that have occurred in recent decades. Nonetheless, real structural problems such as food insufficiency, illiteracy, high mortality rate, and social inequalities exist. A majority of the population in developing countries is impoverished and marginalized as a result of the socio-political orientation of governments, sometimes against the needs of their populations.

A large population can contribute to development. In particular, if the young population is educated and well-trained; human rights are respected; democracy is respected; social infrastructure is developed (i.e. access to water services, hospitals, roads, schools, etc.); women are empowered, respected and trained; and migratory flows are managed.

The issue of development offers many topics for reflection including the nature of the relationship between the agricultural and industrial sectors. These two sectors of the economy are important and leave their imprint on the environment. In the twenty-first century, industrialization will be greatly accelerated by automation and information and communication technologies (ICTs), among others, due to the domination of the capitalist mode of production. Capitalism appears as an element that transforms new regions and the economy from peasant agriculture to commercial farming. This new situation, where the need for money is prioritized, leads to a substitution of family or community work by wage labour, the expansion of the internal market and the productive forces of development.

Capitalism is not the only force that has changed the economy. Other economic experiences that have emerged in the course of the century show that in developing countries, the relationship between industry and agriculture, cities and countryside, and population movements is constantly changing.

One can conclude that the relationship between population and development is crucial and governments' policies need to take into account the needs of the population.